



LIBRARY

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1937..

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEDALE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

There has again been a considerable amount of work undertaken by the Council in the development of the Housing Scheme and Water Supply for the District.

The Health of the population has in general been good and the incidence of infectious disease low.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the Authority.

- (1) One Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- (2) One Sanitary Inspector (part time).
- (3) One Water Inspector (part time).

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, 43,302 Acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population
(mid-1937) 6,470.

Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according
to Rate Books, 1883.

Rateable Value of the Area, £23,367.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £96-13-9.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is almost entirely Agricultural and consequently the welfare of the community is largely dependent on the prosperity of the farming industry, though during the past year many manual workers have found employment with contractors who are carrying out large undertakings in the neighbourhood, such as developmental schemes at Caterick Camp, Dishforth Aerodrome and building in general, throughout the district.

In consequence of the above there has not been much real unemployment in the Area during the year.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	M	F	
LIVE BIRTHS				} Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population, 17'31.
Legitimate	106	51	55	
Illegitimate	6	3	3	

The Birth Rate for 1936 was 14'3.

The Birth Rate for all England and Wales for 1937 was 14'9.

	Total	M	F	
STILLBIRTHS	6	4	2	} Rate per 1000, total (live and still) births 50'8.

	Total	M	F	
DEATHS	78	37	41	} Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12'05

The Death Rate for 1936 was 11'1.

The Death Rate for all England and Wales for 1937 was 12'4.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes 1 (Puerperal Sepsis)

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 8'4.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	.....	.....	6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	9
„ „ Measles (all ages)	....	.....	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)			1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			0

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring comment.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

There have been no developments or changes in the undermentioned Services during the year :—

- (a) Laboratory facilities
- (b) Ambulance services
- (c) Clinics and Treatment Centres
- (d) Hospitals

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Since my last Report the few remaining villages that were without the services of a District Nurse have now been provided for by the Voluntary Nursing Associations.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER. Owing to numerous and unforeseen difficulties, progress in the development of the Water Scheme has been slow.

Preliminary work on the bore-hole and well at Bellerby was completed by the end of the year and the laying of the pipe track is expected to be commenced in January 1938.

The existing water supplies to the villages were maintained during the year, though in the case of Well Village it was found necessary to make a small extension in order to increase the pressure and obtain water for the new Council Houses.

During the year four private wells were found to be liable to pollution ; three of which received attention and the fourth was condemned, the owners finding another source.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. During the year replacements of lengths in the sewers at Exelby and Carthorpe have been undertaken, and blockages in the sewers at Aiskew, Leeming, Fencote, Kirkby Fleetham and Theakston have been dealt with.

Proposals to provide a new sewer in Aiskew have been under consideration.

It is with regret that I have again to record the fact that Bedale town is still without a Public Convenience.

This is in the main due to the inability on the part of the Council to come to a decision as to the most suitable site.

From a Public Health point of view, it might be said that within limits "any site is better than no site."

RIVERS AND STREAMS. Pollution of Bedale Beck is now giving cause for complaint. The causes of contamination are two :

1. The discharge of untreated sewage, from Aiskew, into the stream near the Bridge.
2. The swilling of the liquid and solid manure from the Cattle Mart down a drain discharging into the beck a short distance below the Bridge.

Pollution from the first cause will disappear as soon as the proposed sewage disposal works for Aiskew are installed.

This is contemplated by the Council in the near future.

With regard to contamination from the Cattle Mart, though it may be said that the result is more unsightly than unsanitary, it is necessary that some form of settling tank should be installed to prevent the solid matter from being deposited in the stream.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. During the year 10 water closets were installed in Bedale to replace earth closets, and 1 in Snape

PUBLIC CLEANSING. During the year household refuse (i.e. the contents of dust bins) was collected in the townships of Bedale and Aiskew by a covered motor lorry once a week and the earth closets and ashpits were emptied by motor lorry once in every three months.

In the other townships, the collection of household refuse has been carried out as previously (i.e. once a month by horse and cart) and the householders have been responsible for emptying their earth closets and ashpits.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Regular visits have been made by the Sanitary Inspector to different parts of the Area for the purpose of making inspections.

A few untrapped drains and 22 blocked house drains were found and received attention on the service of a formal notice.

Notices served during the year :—

Statutory	....	....	1
Informal	....	....	32

SWIMMING POOLS. There is one private swimming pool in the Area. The conditions appear to be satisfactory.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary conditions remain the same as last year. The only School closed during the year was that at Thornton Watlass. This was advised on account of an epidemic of measles in February.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 71

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 71

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR 0

4. HOUSING ACT 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 42
 (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 42
 (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 269
 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1
 (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 21
 (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 127

5. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR :—

1. By private enterprise	.....	.....	8
2. By the Local Authority	.....	.....	6

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

A large proportion of the milk produced is sent outside the Area, chiefly to Dairies at Northallerton (Cow & Gate), Leyburn (Express Dairy Co.), and Masham (Messrs. A. Rowntree & Son). Cases of unclean milk are usually reported by these Dairies to the Sanitary Inspector by whom investigations are carried out and the necessary steps taken.

Owing to the supervision of the Milk Supply in the Area having largely come under the control of the County Council it is impossible for me to report fully on this matter.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

As a result of inspections of slaughter houses, shops and stalls, where meat was exposed for sale, the entire carcasses of 13 pigs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and the carcasses of 32 other pigs were condemned in part. In all cases the cause was tuberculosis.

Otherwise conditions appeared to be satisfactory.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Of notifiable diseases there has been no epidemic during the year, as will be seen from the table given overleaf; the number of cases being an average for normal years.

In January, February and March there was a very widespread epidemic of influenza, though it was not of a severe type.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	6	4	0
Diphtheria	2	2	1
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	0	1
Pneumonia	4	0	3
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0

Hospital cases were sent to the Darlington and Ripon
Fever Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15—	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
25—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	—	—	4	2	1	—	1

All cases of deaths from Tuberculosis had been previously notified.

In concluding my Report, I should again like to take the opportunity of expressing my thanks to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Lambert, for his valuable assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALAN W. HANSELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

